

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201468

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOL REPEAT OF SANTIAGO 5745 TO SECSTATE INFO BUENOS AIRES

SAO PAULO BRASILIA USUN GENEVA USCINCSO DIA AUG 22

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5745

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, SHUM

SUBJECT: GOC TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES
OF CHILEAN EXTREMISTS

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 5483 (B) SANTIAGO 5710

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAS ANNOUNCED THAT GOC WILL
CONDUCT INVESTIGATION BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ABROAD OF STORIES
WHICH HAVE APPEARED ALLEGING THE DEATH OR DISAPPEARANCE OF
119 CHILEAN CITIZENS IDENTIFIED AS EXTREMISTS OF THE LEFT.
PINOCHET CHARGED THAT AFFAIR OF LISTS IS STILL ANOTHER MARXIST
PLOT TO DISCREDIT GOC. IN MEANTIME, FAMILIES OF THOSE
DISAPPEARED ARE CIRCULATING VERY CRITICAL DOCUMENTS ON AFFAIR.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT AUGUST 20 CEREMONY MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF
NATIONAL LIBERATOR BERNARDO O'HIGGINS, PRESIDENT PINOCHET
CONFIDENTIAL

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ANNOUNCED THAT GOC WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATION BOTH AT HOME
AND ABROAD INTO THE MATTER OF THE LISTS OF 119 ALLEGED
CHILEAN EXTREMISTS KILLED SINCE COUP, SUPPOSEDLY OUTSIDE
OF CHILE. HE CHARGED IN SAME BREATH THAT AFFAIR IS EFFORT OF

GOC'S ENEMIES TO DAMAGE CHILE'S IMAGE. HE LINKED APPEARANCE OF LISTS TO SCHEDULED VISIT OF UNHRC WORKING GROUP, SAYING THAT IT WAS INTENDED TO CREATE FALSE IMAGE OF CHILE ABROAD.

3. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT OF SPEECH ADDED NOTE THAT AMONG MATTERS TO BE INVESTIGATED WOULD BE RELIGIOUS CEREMONY (CATHOLIC MASS) HELD RECENTLY FOR FAMILIES AND SYMPATHIZERS OF THOSE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED (SANTIAGO 5428).

4. ON AUGUST 20, A LABOR UNION LEADER PASSED SHEAF OF PAPERS RELATED TO AFFAIR TO EMB LABOR ATTACHE. HE SAID THAT DOCUMENTS WERE BROUGHT TO UNION BY WIVES OF DETAINEES. DOCUMENTS ARE GOOD QUALITY STENCIL REPRODUCTIONS. ONE BEARS SERIAL NUMBER STAMP IMPRINT "000225," INDICATING PROBABLE WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF PACKET. FIRST DOCUMENT IS LETTER WITH SPACES PROVIDED FOR ADDRESSEE AND DATE, SIGNED "FAMILIES OF THE DISAPPEARED DETAINEES." LETTER CLAIMS THAT AT LEAST 1500 DETAINEES HAVE DISAPPEARED -- I.E., GOC DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THEM. FAMILIES SPONSORING LETTER CLAIM TO REPRESENT 270 CASES, WHICH INCLUDES ALL 119 ON "LEA" AND "O DIA" LISTS. LETTER AVOIDS OUTRIGHT CHARGE THAT GOC HAS KILLED 119, BUT REFERS TO HORROR OF SITUATION, MAKES ASSUMPTION THAT ALL WERE OR ARE DETAINED BY GOC, AND LABELS "TORTURE AND DISAPPEARANCE" WORST FORMS OF REPRESSION. LETTER TREATS VARIOUS SUSPICIOUS ASPECTS OF LISTS, SUCH AS UNUSUAL DETAIL OF FULL NAMES, WHICH TENDS TO POINT FINGER AT GOC.

5. SECOND DOCUMENT, WHICH BEARS NUMBER, IS "REPORT ON DISAPPEARED DETAINEES IN CHILE, PREPARED BY FAMILIES." LENGTHY DOCUMENT ANALYZES BACKGROUND OF DETENTIONS, MAKEUP OF LISTS, LEGAL AND OTHER ACTIONS TAKEN BY FAMILIES. IN ADDITION TO "DENUNCIATIONS" MADE TO NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND LEADERS (SUCH AS CHILEAN CARDINAL SILVA), DOCUMENT STATES THAT MATTER HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO ARA ASST. SEC. ROGERS. "REPORT" CLOSES WITH APPEAL FROM MOTHERS, WIVES, CONFIDENTIAL

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ETC. TO PUBLIC OPINION TO PRESSURE "MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO RETURN OUR RELATIVES TO US."

6. THIRD DOCUMENT IS LISTING OF 119 "LEA" AND "O DIA" CASES, WITH FURTHER ANALYSIS OF BACKGROUND OF AXDAIR. PARTICULAR NOTE IS MADE OF SUSPICIOUS SIMILARITY OF LISTS, INCLUDING "INCORRECT ALPHABETICAL ORDERING," TO LISTS SUBMITTED BY FAMILIES (THROUGH PEACE COMMITTEE) TO COURTS, ETC.

7. FINAL DOCUMENT IS LIST OF 270 "DISAPPEARED DETAINEES" REPRESENTED BY GROUP OF FAMILIES. THIS LIST INCLUDES THE 119 "LEA" AND "O DIA" CASES. NAME OF MIRTHA COMPAGNET GODOY APPEARS IN LIST OF 270. THIS IS CASE WITH US INTEREST,

CONCERNING WHICH LAST REPORT WAS SENT IN APRIL (SANTIAGO 2878).
INFORMAL FON MIN CHANNELS HAD ASSURED US MIRTHA WAS AT TRES
ALAMOS DETENTION CENTER, AND HER FAMILY HAD BEEN VISITING
HER REGULARLY WHILE SHE AWAITED EXILE. TELEPHONE CALL TO
FAMILY AUGUST 20 CONFIRMED THAT SHE IS BEING SEEN REGULARLY
AT NEW WOMENS DETENTION CENTER AT PIRQUE NEAR SANTIAGO.
FAMILY COULD NOT RPT NOT EXPLAIN APPEARANCE HER NAME ON
LIST OF 270 "DISAPPEARED."

8. DOCUMENTS BEING POUCHED TO ARA/BC.

9. COMMENT: AFFAIR OF 119 DISAPPEARED OR DEAD EXTREMISTS IS
PERCOLATING SLOWLY BUT STEADILY IN CHILE. MANY CHILEANS,
PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO INFORMATION IS LIMITED TO WHAT APPEARS
IN CHILEAN COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA, SEEM HARDLY AWARE OF IT.
GOC OFFICIALS PRIVATELY GENERALLY LABEL IT A MARXIST PLOT
AND SWITCH IMMEDIATELY TO "COUNTER-ATTACK" OF THE "WHY PICK
ON US, WHAT ABOUT CUBA, RUSSIA, ETC." LINE. PINOCHET COMMENTS
UNDERLINE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OF GOC TOWARD
IMPLICATIONS OF LISTS. AT TIME OF FIRST APPEARANCE GOC
HERALDED LISTS AS PROOF OF ITS CONTENTIONS THAT MISSING
PERSONS WERE OUTSIDE CHILE. TONE NOW AFTER REASSESSMENT HAS
CHANGED TO DEFENSIVE CLAIM THAT ENEMIES ARE ATTEMPTING
EMBARRASS GOC. GOC THUS APPEARS TO HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT MANY
OBSERVERS ARE STATING OR IMPLYING THAT AFFAIR WAS A GOC
OPERATION.

10. VERY CRITICAL TIME MAGAZINE STORY ON 119, IN ISSUE
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OF AUGUST 11, APPEARED NORMALLY ON NEWSSTANDS HERE.
CHILEAN PRESS HAS NOT CARRIED SUCH STORIES AS KANDELL'S
IN NY TIMES OR OMANG'S IN WASHINGTON POST.

10. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT DOCUMENTS HANDED TO US ON MATTER
ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHER EMBASSIES (CANADIAN
EMBASSY CONFIRMS RECEIPT OF SET), FOREIGN REPORTERS, AND
PERHAPS TO RELATIVES IN US OF PERSONS DISAPPEARED, WHO QUITE
PROBABLY WILL PASS INFORMATION TO INTERESTED US CONGRESSIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES. RADIO MOSCOW BROADCAST OF AUGUST 18
CARRIED REFERENCE TO THESE DOCUMENTS.
POPPER UNQTE MAW

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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